

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

HANOVER INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. _____

LAURENCE BANK; NK WASHINGTON
ST, LLC; BG ARLINGTON, LLC; THE
CHARTER OAK FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendants NK Washington St., LLC (“NK Washington”), Laurence Bank, and BG Arlington, LLC (“BG Arlington”) (together, the “Policyholder Defendants”), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, hereby give notice of the removal of this action from the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, Virginia to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and respectfully states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff, Hanover Insurance Company (“Hanover”), commenced this action against the Policyholder Defendants and The Charter Oak Fire Insurance Company (“Charter Oak”) by filing a Complaint for Declaratory Judgment (“Complaint”) in the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, Virginia (the “Circuit Court”), Case No. CL19002402 (the “Lawsuit”). True and complete copies of the Complaint, Summons, and all other process filed in the Circuit Court as of the filing of this notice are attached collectively as **Exhibit A**. No other process, order or

other pleading in this action has been received to date by the Policyholder Defendants. The parties are citizens of different states, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

Therefore, the action is removable to this Court on the basis of diversity jurisdiction.

TIMELY REMOVAL

2. The Policyholder Defendants first received, through counsel, copies of the Summons and Complaint on July 16, 2019. *See* Email correspondence, attached hereto as

Exhibit B.

3. Thirty (30) days have not yet expired since this action became removable to this Court.

BASIS FOR FEDERAL JURISDICTION

4. This Court has original jurisdiction over this civil action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and this action is one that may be removed to this Court by the Policyholder Defendants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446 in that it is an action between citizens of different states wherein the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

5. Plaintiff Hanover is a New Hampshire corporation with its principal place of business in Massachusetts.

6. Defendant NK Washington is a Virginia limited liability company with its principal place of business in Alexandria, Virginia.

7. Defendant Mr. Bank is an individual residing in Potomac, Maryland.

8. Defendant BG Arlington is a former Virginia limited liability company with its former principal place of business in Arlington, Virginia.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Charter Oak is a Connecticut corporation with its principal place of business in Hartford, Connecticut.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a), diversity of citizenship exists between Plaintiff Hanover (New Hampshire), and Defendants Bank (Maryland), NK Washington (Virginia), BG Arlington (Virginia), and Charter Oak (Connecticut).

AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY

11. In the Complaint, Hanover seeks a declaration that it has no obligation under a property insurance policy to pay for damage to the insured commercial property building located at 424 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia (the “Property”). The Policyholder Defendants submitted to Hanover a Proof of Loss for \$847,555 “for the alleged damage to the Property.” See Complaint ¶ 27; see also **Exhibit C** (May 28, 2019 Proof of Loss).

12. As such, the amount in controversy is in excess of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

VENUE

13. Removal to this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), as this Court is within the district and division where the Lawsuit is pending.

14. Upon the Court’s entry of this Notice and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), the Policyholder Defendants will timely file a notice with the Circuit Court notifying that court that the Policyholder Defendants have removed this case to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. That proposed filing is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), that notice is being served upon Hanover’s counsel and Charter Oak’s registered agent for service.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, Pyramid hereby removes this action from the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, Virginia to this United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Dated: August 5, 2019

/s/ Kristin C. Davis

Kristin C. Davis (Va. Bar #78419) (member, E.D. Va.)
Gary Thompson (admitted pro hac vice)
Julie Hammerman (admitted pro hac vice)
THOMPSON HAMMERMAN DAVIS LLP
1015 15th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 367-6178
Facsimile: (202) 318-5356
Email: kdavis@thompsonhd.com

Counsel for Defendants NK Washington St., LLC;
Laurence Bank; and BG Arlington, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on the 5th day of August, 2019, a copy of the foregoing was sent via the CM/ECF system:

Kenneth F. Hardt, Esq.
Sinnott, Nuckols & Logan, PC
13811 Village Mill Drive
Midlothian, Virginia 23114
(804) 893-3861 (direct)
(804) 423-5424 (fax)
khardt@snllaw.com

Counsel for Hanover Insurance Company

Corporation Service Company
Registered Agent
100 Shockoe Slip, Fl 2
Richmond, VA 23219

*Registered Agent for Charter Oak Fire
Insurance Company*

/s/ Kristin C. Davis

Kristin C. Davis